

**CITY OF BELLEVUE  
YOUTH LINK BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

December 9, 2009  
6:00-8:00 p.m.

City Hall  
Room 1E-120  
Bellevue, WA

**BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT:** Co-Chairs Mike Murphy and Alice Zhang<sup>1</sup>, Boardmembers Nina Chen, Juan Esparza, Olivia Gonzalez, Kuba Jeffers, Katie Kappel, Andrew Kranseler, Ryley Martin, Caroline Thienes

**BOARDMEMBERS ABSENT:** Boardmembers Faisal Jaswal, Jenny Kim<sup>2</sup>, Michelle Mattson-Hamilton<sup>3</sup>, Lt. Dave Sellers<sup>4</sup>

**STAFF PRESENT:** Patrick Alina, Helena Stephens

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Toni Esparza, Daniel Lim, Rubi Martinez, Liz Mizrahi, Ede Patterson, Krischanna Roberson, Maya Vergien

**MINUTES TAKER:** Michelle Cash

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Murphy at 6:06 p.m.

Timekeeper: Kuba Jeffers

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**Motion by Boardmember Kappel and second by Boardmember Jeffers to approve the meeting agenda. Motion carried unanimously (9-0).**

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Motion by Boardmember Kranseler and second by Boardmember Chen to approve the November 10, 2009 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Youth Link Board as presented. Motion carried unanimously (9-0).**

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<sup>1</sup> Arrived at 6:14 p.m.

<sup>2</sup> Excused absence.

<sup>3</sup> Excused absence.

<sup>4</sup> Excused absence.

**4. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:**

None.

**5. BOARD COMMUNICATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

a. BYC Executive Committee

Mr. Lim provided the following Youth Council report:

- BYC meetings were held on November 18 and December 2. Meetings averaged over 45-50 BYC members in attendance.
- Ten BYC members attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Washington Youth Leadership Summit in Everett.
- There will be a BYC Winter Ice Skating Social at the Bellevue Downtown Park on December 16. The Bellevue Downtown Association provided 20 free tickets for the event.
- A Teen Closet distribution event was not held in November due to the Kids Care Coat Drive event. There will be a Teen Closet make-up event on December 14.
- Kids Care Coat Drive and Youth Link continue to receive donations from the community. These donations will be distributed to community members via the emergency shelter operations at Crossroads Community Center and other community partners.
- No YL meetings will be held during Winter break.

Mr. Lim distributed pictures from the various YL events along with a December BYC calendar.

b. Staff Report

Ms. Stephens reported on the following items:

- Social Venture Group is hosting a Youth Summit on February 27, 2010. The purpose of the summit is to bring together 100-120 young people from various organizations. (Boardmembers Jeffers, Martin, Zhang, and Chen volunteered to attend the summit.)
- Thank you to all the Youth Link volunteers that attended the Crossroads Thanksgiving Dinner. The dinner had approximately 450 Bellevue families in attendance.
- The Kids Care Coat Drive distributed over 1,200 coats to Bellevue families.
- Designs for the Bellevue Youth Theatre, to be located at Crossroads Park, have been reviewed by City Council. The theatre will provide seating for up to 150 people.
- The Youth Holiday Party will be held December 15 at Crossroads Community Center.
- Ground Zero has a new youth publication entitled *Beastside Zine*.

Ms. Stephens distributed a holiday greeting card sent to Boardmembers from former YL Boardmember Deven Tokuno.

**6. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS:**

None.

**7. ACTION ITEMS:**

- a. Approve Retreat goals for 2010

*See later in the meeting minutes.*

**8. STUDY SESSION ITEMS:**

- a. EA School Retreats presentation

Ms. Stephens introduced Toni Esparza, Executive Director at Eastside Academy. Toni Esparza is also the wife of Boardmember Juan Esparza who is the Director of Student Services & Chaplain at Eastside Academy.

Mrs. Esparza explained that the Eastside Academy (EA) exists to inspire change in the lives of at-risk youth through high school education, counseling, recovery, and life skills programs in a Christ centered environment. Many of the students have already attended 3-5 other high schools before attending EA.

Eastside Academy requested a one-time funding in the amount of \$8,000 so the entire Eastside Academy student body (approximately 40 students) and staff can participate in two overnight retreats. Mrs. Esparza explained that the retreats are designed to remove the students from their day-to-day environment, and provide them with an opportunity for personal growth and reflection. The students are given the opportunity to participate in team-building activities, which are designed to enhance their relational abilities and encourage trust.

Although the staff members at Eastside Academy are Christian, it is not a criterion for students to be Christian. Staff and students are both encouraged to share stories about their faith. Mrs. Esparza explained that many of the EA students also participate in Alcoholics Anonymous, which helps people recover from alcoholism. She added that AA is a 12-step based program and one of AA's steps is identification of a higher power.

Mrs. Esparza explained the benefits of an overnight retreat versus a full-day retreat. In particular, some of the home environment surroundings of students are an impediment to the student's success. The retreat allows students the ability to spend time away from home and focus on themselves.

Ms. Stephens read an e-mail submitted by Boardmember Mattson-Hamilton which discussed some of her concerns about how varying faith beliefs are handled in the program. Mrs. Esparza explained that students are not ostracized for sharing different beliefs. Students are encouraged to participate with their own comfort levels. She added that the retreat is for the entire student population. Retreats are typically held in June and September.

b. AVID College Overnight Visit presentation

Liz Mizrahi, AVID teacher and co-coordinator at Interlake High School, explained that Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) is an academically rigorous class that students apply and interview for admittance. It is a course aimed at preparing students for college. AVID seeks students that earn an average grade point average, particularly those students who are underrepresented and underserved. Ms. Mizrahi added that an important factor of the AVID program/model is for students to be on college campuses. The 9<sup>th</sup> grade students visit local Universities in Seattle. In addition, the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade students participate in an overnight trip to visit multiple schools, private and public, large and small. The goal for the trip is to motivate students for their most difficult year in high school, junior year, and then help them to see several college schools in the northwest region, to begin to consider where they may be interested in applying.

Ms. Martinez is a student in the AVID program and summarized her experiences from an overnight trip to eastern Washington colleges, including Central Washington University, Eastern Washington University, Washington State University, and Gonzaga.

Ms. Vergien, AVID counselor and co-coordinator, explained that the AVID program provides students an opportunity to visit college campuses. She added that over 75% of the students that participate in the program are first generation college students. The AVID funding request is for \$5,222 to fund the substitute teachers, bus, and hotels for 53 students to attend the eastern Washington overnight trip. Students pay for their own meals and those students who are on free/reduced lunch get pre-packaged breakfast and lunches from the school cafeteria prior to the trip.

Boardmember Thienes suggested that students visit local colleges for a day trip to help reduce expenses, rather than traveling to eastern Washington. Ms. Mizrahi explained the challenges of local colleges due to strict grade point average requirements, particularly with the University of Washington.

Ms. Roberson is a parent of an AVID student and discussed the benefits of the program for her two sons.

There was a general discussion about the advantages/disadvantages of using dorm rooms as overnight rooms versus hotels for the program. Some of the challenges of dorm rooms are space limitations and liability. In addition, Boardmembers discussed the Bellevue School District's contributions toward the program. Ms. Vergien clarified that the Bellevue Schools Foundation assists with some of the training for AVID teachers.

***Item 7 Continued***

**ACTION ITEMS:**

- a. Approve Retreat goals for 2010

Co-Chair Murphy reviewed the Youth Link Board Retreat notes.

**Motion by Boardmember Gonzalez and second by Boardmember Chen to approve the following 2010 priorities for the Youth Link Board:**

**Focus on 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Youth Link**

- **Talk to Council to provide input on Bellevue vision.**
- **Do Facebook survey to gather information.**
- **Identify impact of youth and Youth Link.**
- **Reach out to schools.**

**Youth Court**

- **The work plan is set so there is no need for a meeting.**

**Showing Up/Outreach/Public Relations**

- **Commit to being at activities.**
- **Schedule people using summary list.**
- **Speak about Youth Link.**

**Environment**

- **Set the agenda.**

**At the question, motion carried unanimously (10-0) to approve the 2010 Youth Link Priorities.**

***Item 8 Continued***

**STUDY SESSION ITEMS:**

- c. Environmental Committee update

Boardmember Jeffers summarized the Environmental Committee's recent brainstorming session. The committee is determining options for growing the recent bag drive program, as well as a bottle cap drive.

- d. Youth Link 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee

No report.

e. Public Relations Committee

No report.

9. OTHER COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

**Motion by Boardmember Martin and second by Boardmember Jeffers to extend the meeting until 8:05 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (10-0).**

10. ADJOURNMENT:

Boardmembers requested that a budget review be added to the January meeting agenda.

**Motion by Boardmember Chen and second by Boardmember Gonzalez to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (10-0).**